

Remarks

This paper replaces the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application, in that it amends the claim set. That Preliminary Amendment also proposed a change to the "Statement of Related Applications" section. However, assignee submitted a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment on May 25, 2004, further updating the "Statement of Related Applications" section. Thus, this paper omits any amendment to the specification. Entry of the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed on May 25, 2004, is still requested.

This paper retains claim 15 (and claims 16-20 dependent thereon) and adds claim 21 (and its dependent claims 22-36). Claim 15 was restricted from the allowed claims of the parent application. Claim 21 is considered consonant with claim 15 because claim 21 is directed to a filter through which the water stream may be directed in the method of claim 15. While claim 21 adds a container, that addition is not considered to make examination substantially more difficult, particularly given that the Morris patent cited in the parent (6,106,707 and its continuation, 6,231,758) list on their faces references that reflect previous and recent PTO searches for the type of containers defined in the various claims of this application (and applicant refers the examiner to those references). Also consonant with the restriction requirement, the independent claims of this application are not limited to the embodiments using a copolymer in a polymer matrix.

Thus, although the PTO has required assignee to use the code "new," assignee does not concede that the claims are directed to new subject matter but rather consonant with the original, restricted claims.

A discussion of the principal references appears in the Notice of Allowance of the parent application. The known prior art does not appear to disclose or suggest directing water to flow through a filter material having contaminant-sorbing properties and having antimicrobial compound on its surfaces (claim 15), nor does the known prior art appear to disclose or suggest a filter having a container for such filter material and an inlet and outlet for such a water flow (claim 21).

Prompt consideration and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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